

6 MAY 1983

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director

VIA: Deputy Director for Operations

FROM:
Chief, International Activities Division

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SUBJECT: Efforts Against the Narcotics Target

REFERENCE: Memorandum for DDCI, from Robert Gates,
dated 20 April 1983, Same Subject (attached)

1. In our view the widespread agreement within the Intelligence Community about the need for annual NIE's on world opium and coca production is a valid one. This office sends an observer to the interagency meetings which produce the National Narcotics Estimate, which is an unclassified annual study on the supply of drugs to the U.S. illicit market from foreign and domestic sources. Probably the single most important conclusion we draw from attending these meetings is how soft the supply and demand figures really are. In our opinion, if the USG is ever to get a handle on the narcotics problem, it is necessary to have hard numbers on the narcotics supply. In our view, only the DDI through the NIE mechanism can provide such information. We certainly appreciate the DDI's resource problems, and it may be that in the short term, we will have to settle for the alternative approach suggested. Nevertheless, all concerned should be aware that at present, precise figures on the true dimensions of the drug problem are not available. 25X1

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Any step taken which can lead to additional hard information on the true dimensions of the narcotics problem is a step worth taking.

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